

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2002      LB 384

correct the record. That's like the situation where this guy didn't get along well for a change with his father-in-law. So his wife said, you know, Honey, Daddy wants to be cremated. What do you think about that? He said, I'm all for it. I'll drive him there right now. So sometimes people don't get the meaning from our words that we intend. This amendment is one of those which is very noncontroversial, will improve existing language in the law, and will give me the opportunity, once again, to talk about the way we legislate. I can thoroughly understand why Senator Quandahl and the supporters of this bill want to move it and work on it between now and Select File. I understand that. Such a course is often pursued. But we, as a Legislature, have three stages of debate. What are we to do at the first stage? If a bill is difficult, we bail out and say we'll delay it until a future date and let others work it all out. And if they fail to work it all out, some people are going to be soured and look at that whole thing with a jaundiced eye. General File really is the place where we should do the vast majority of the hammering out. There should be fine tuning on Select File and General File (sic--Final Reading) should be where we might just rub a coat sleeve to give the final luster or just to give ourselves a chance to exult in the good work that we've done. But because of the way legislatures grow, evolve, change, we now have a situation where all three stages of debate may be used for that purpose; namely, full-blown debate where substantive issues remain to be addressed and have to be addressed before a bill is enacted into law. When people come here, I think, and this is just modest me speaking, I think we should be prepared to do the work that is before us to do. Why, for all we know the world could end tonight. Then how will we feel tomorrow not having done what we should have done today? Well, we won't feel anything really, but I meant that's the way we make points and also you check to see if people are listening. But consider this, Senator Byars. We can only live one instant at a time. We can only do what is immediately before us to do. No matter how complex or technical a bill is, if we would take it step by step, issue by issue, we could work our way through it at the first stage and be basically done with it. We could find out by assigning the people whose bill it is, if they want to work with conflicting groups, assign them the responsibility to make those groups decide first of all what